

~~SECRET~~

15339

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
RELEASE AS SANITIZED  
1998

217

Current Support Brief

SUPPLY OF PETROLEUM TO CUBA  
JANUARY-JUNE 1964



July 1964

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Office of Research and Reports

~~SECRET~~

GPO 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

SUPPLY OF PETROLEUM TO CUBA  
JANUARY-JUNE 1964

More than 2.5 million tons\* of crude oil and petroleum products, equivalent to a rate of 100,000 barrels per day (bpd), were imported into Cuba during the first 6 months of 1964 -- an increase of about 20 percent above that of the same period of 1963 but only slightly more than in the first half of 1962 (see the table). Imports thus far this year had an estimated value of about \$32 million,\*\* or about 8 percent of the value of all goods estimated to have been imported into Cuba during the period. The USSR continues to supply quantities of crude oil and a full range of petroleum products adequate to meet Cuba's basic petroleum requirements. Cuba, however, also received a few small shipments of products from Rumania and a small shipment of lubricants from Western Europe. Domestic production of crude oil continues to represent an insignificant share of Cuba's supply of petroleum.

1. Crude Oil

Imports of crude oil represented about three-fourths of all petroleum imported into Cuba during the first half of 1964 and amounted to 1.9 million tons -- only a small change from the imports of crude oil during the first 6 months of 1963. Such imports, equivalent to about 76,000 bpd, are sufficient to run the Cuban refineries at more than 90 percent of estimated capacity.

2. Petroleum Products

Imports of petroleum products during January-June 1964 amounted to 640,000 tons -- more than the total of all petroleum products imported in all of 1963. Imports of fuel oil rose from 9,000 tons in the first half of 1963 to 420,000 tons in the first half of 1964 and of gas oil from almost nothing to 108,000 tons but imports of high-grade motor gasoline dropped from 130,000 to 64,000 tons. This shift in the pattern of imports of products, which began in late 1963, is attributable to

\* Tonnages are given in metric tons throughout this publication.

\*\* Rubles were converted to US dollars at the nominal rate of exchange of 0.90 ruble to US \$1.

S-E-C-R-E-T

the resumption of operation of the catalytic cracking unit at the former ESSO refinery in Havana. \*

Those products that are not manufactured in Cuban refineries continued to be imported in 1964 at about the same rate as during the last 3 years. About 31,000 tons of lubricants imported during the first half of 1964 covered a full range of products adequate in quality and quantity to meet essential requirements for lubricants. Imports of aviation gasoline and jet fuel amounted to 9,000 tons and 10,000 tons, respectively. The demand for these products apparently has not changed substantially during the past 2 years, and it is expected that imports of aircraft fuels during 1964 will be about the same as in earlier years.

### 3. Shipping Pattern

Almost three-fourths of the petroleum imported during January-June 1964 was shipped in Bloc tankers, compared with two-thirds in the same period of 1963. As in 1963, shipments from Black Sea ports accounted for about 95 percent of the imports during the period, with the remainder originating in Baltic Sea ports.

\* The restoration of the catalytic cracking unit had the general effect of decreasing the output of fuel oil and diesel fuel and increasing the output of high-grade motor gasoline. Logically, imports of these products would be increased to offset the decline in local output. For a fuller explanation of the effect of the operation of the catalytic cracking unit on the composition of imports of petroleum products to Cuba, see CIA, Significant Developments in the Cuban Petroleum Economy in 1963, Mar 64. ~~SECRET~~

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

Table

Cuba: Composition of Petroleum Imports, by Quantity and Value a/  
First Half of Year, 1962-64

Commodity	First Half 1962		First Half 1963		First Half 1964	
	Thousand Metric Tons	Thousand US \$ <u>b/</u>	Thousand Metric Tons	Thousand US \$ <u>b/</u>	Thousand Metric Tons	Thousand US \$ <u>b/</u>
Crude oil	1,700	18,000	2,000	21,000	1,900	21,000
Petroleum products	700	11,000	160	3,000	640	11,000
Total	<u>2,400</u>	<u>29,000</u>	<u>2,100</u>	<u>24,000</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>32,000</u>

a. Data have been rounded to two significant digits. Because of rounding, components may not add to the totals shown.  
b. F.O.B. point of origin. Values are based on 1962 average prices and derived from data on the most recent Soviet trade statistics and converted at the nominal rate of exchange of 0.90 ruble to US \$1.